

Message Text

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16
ACTION EA-09

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R 230240Z AUG 76
FM AMEMBASSY PORT MORESBY
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1726
INFO AMEMBASSY CANBERRA
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AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON
CINCPAC HOLOLULU
CINCPACREP GUAM/TTPI

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CINCPAC FOR POLAD

CINCPACREP PASS TO HICOM AND STATUS LNO

E.O. 11652: NA
TAGS: EAID XP PP
SUBJ: ECONOMIC AID FOR PACIFIC ISLAND COUNTRIES

REF: (A) STATE 201678, (B) WELLINGTON 2889, (C) SUVA 855

1. THANKS FOR REFTTEL A. I AM GLAD THAT DISCUSSION WILL
BE HELD IN WASHINGTON WITH AUSTRALIAN AND NEW ZEALANDERS.
I BELIEVE THAT SUPPORT FOR A SOUTH PACIFIC SHIPPING LINE
WOULD BE VERY WELL RECEIVED, AND HOPE THAT SURPLUS NAVAL
CRAFT WILL BE CONSIDERED.

2. AS QUESTION OF AID IS DISCUSSED IN WASHINGTON AND
ELSEWHERE, I WOULD LIKE TO MAKE SOME SUGGESTIONS.

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3. THE NEWLY PROPOSED PRIVATE, NON-PROFIT FUND FOR APPROPRIATE TECHNOLOGY COULD PROVIDE A HIGHLY USEFUL, MUCH SOUGHT AFTER AID FOR THE PACIFIC ISLANDS WHICH WOULD MINIMIZE SOME OF THE TROUBLESOME FEATURES IN OTHER TYPES OF AID. MANY OF THE PROBLEMS FACED BY PACIFIC ISLAND COUNTRIES ARE SIMILAR IF NOT IDENTICAL, AND HENCE A REGIONAL APPROACH WOULD BE EFFECTIVE. WORKSHOPS AND SEMINARS DEALING WITH APPROPRIATE TECHNOLOGY FOR FISHING AND FISH PRESERVATION, FOR EXAMPLE, COULD PROVIDE INFORMATION USEFUL TO EVERY PACIFIC ISLAND COUNTRY. THIS IS BY NO MEANS AN ISOLATED EXAMPLE: THE RAISING AND PRESERVATION OF PIGS, BANANAS, TARO, SAGO, AND SWEET POTATO WOULD ALSO BE OF WIDESPREAD INTEREST THROUGHOUT THE SOUTH PACIFIC. OTHER POSSIBLE ITEMS OF GENERAL PACIFIC INTEREST ARE SIMPLE PUMPS, CORN HUSKERS AND GRINDERS, PEANUT SHELLERS, SWEET POTATO CHIP MAKERS, AND SIMPLE CLAY OVENS.

4. ADVANTAGES WE SEE IN THIS PROGRAM ARE: 1) IT WOULD HELP FULFILL A CLEAR NEED; 2) IT WOULD DEMONSTRATE U.S. INTEREST AND GOODWILL; 3) WE COULD MOVE QUICKLY; 4) USG PRESENCE COULD BE KEPT TO A MINIMUM; 5) THIS KIND OF PROGRAM NEED NOT BE EXPENSIVE; AND 6) IT WOULD INCREASE REGIONAL CONTACTS ACROSS THE PACIFIC. SOME OF THE PACIFIC ISLAND COUNTRIES MIGHT SEEK AND NEED MORE SOPHISTICATED FORM OF AID IN ADDITION TO THIS PROPOSAL, BUT WE BELIEVE THAT ALMOST ALL SUCH AREAS WOULD BE ABLE TO UTILIZE APPROPRIATE TECHNOLOGY IN SOME PLACES.

5. ROLE WE SEE USG PLAYING WOULD BE: 1) PROVIDE EXAMPLES OF APPROPRIATE TECHNOLOGY DRAWN FROM OTHER COUNTRIES; 2) FINANCE THE COLLECTION OF SUCCESSFUL EXAMPLES OF APPROPRIATE TECHNOLOGY FROM THE PACIFIC ISLAND COUNTRIES; 3) ASSIST IN FINANCING OF A SERIES OF WORKSHOPS AND SEMINARS TO BE HELD AT VARIOUS PLACES IN THE PACIFIC AND ATTENDED BY REPRESENTATIVES FROM OTHER COUNTRIES; AND 4) FINANCE THE PUBLICATION OF HANDBOOKS, MAKING OF FILMS AND OTHER VISUAL AIDS, AND THEIR TRANSLATION INTO OTHER LANGUAGES. A FEW MILLION DOLLARS WOULD TAKE THIS PROGRAM A LONG WAY.

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